

FROGWATCH 2025



ACT and Region FrogWatch
Flynn Community Hub, 3/21 Bingle Street, Flynn
Phone: (02) 6278 3309
Email: frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au
Web: www.ginninderralandcare.org.au

First newsletter for 2025 to keep you up to date with FrogWatch happenings. Happy reading from *your FrogWatch coordinator, Anke Maria*

Upcoming events:

Frog habitat workshops

Almost a quarter of Australia's 200+ frog species are endangered or vulnerable facing pests, climate change, habitat loss and other threats. So, let's jump into action and share a piece of our backyards to ensure our froggy friends stick around for decades to come.

Building a frog oasis in your garden is easy as a leap, fun as a splash, and looks toad-ally awesome.

A small pond is the perfect home for frogs during their breeding season. A damp, plant-filled bog provides a year-round frog sanctuary, safe from predators and harsh conditions. So, hop to one of the upcoming FrogWatch events: a series of frog habitat workshops

with a twist! You don't just attend a workshop—you *will be part of the action!* This is your chance to get your hands dirty and built an urban frog pond. As you contribute to creating a frog paradise, you'll gain the skills and knowledge to transform your own garden into a vibrant, wildlife-friendly space. It's a unique opportunity to learn-by-doing, and to make a real difference—one pond at a time. Book on <https://humanitix.com/au>. Search FrogWatch or frog habitat. Spaces are strictly limited.

Dates

Hands-on habitat workshops

Sat 8th March, 9:00-13:00 – West Belconnen

Sun 9th March, 14:00-17:00 – Ngunnawal

Sat 5th April, 9:00-13:00 – Giralang

Sat 12th April, 9:30-12:30 – Wanniasa

TBA – Ainslie, most likely May or June

Show & Tell session (hands-off event)

Sun 30th March, 9:30-11:30 – Griffith



World Water Day, 22th March

This is the big day! We're excited to launch the **annual reports** of your two favourite citizen science programs: **FrogWatch** 🐸 and the **Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch Program** 🌊.

This launch is the perfect time to send a huge THANK YOU to the amazing FrogWatch and Waterwatch volunteers who've put in thousands of hours of work—talk about dedication! 🙌

Let's take a moment to *cheers* to the incredible milestones we've hit:

- The **23rd FrogCensus** has been the biggest yet! Over 180 FrogWatch volunteers contributed 610 surveys @ 219 sites, spotting 1,664 frogs from *nine different species* (that's a lot of ribbits!). 🐸
- The **11th CHIP report** is here, looking gorgeous in its new format, and it's packed with impressive stats: 1,804 water quality surveys, 187 water bug surveys, and 75 riparian condition surveys—completed by over 200 dedicated Waterwatch volunteers. 💧

Feeling a little dizzy from all those numbers? 😵 Don't worry, we've got your back! Grab a relaxing cuppa and dive into the printed summaries (they're full of pretty pictures, we promise!). Plus, you can check out local water bugs and join in on other community fun activities.

📅 **When:** Saturday, 22nd March | 10:30am – 12:30pm

📍 **Where:** Narrabundah Wetlands, Matina Street, Narrabundah

Important Note: No public toilets on-site, find the closest ones at **Narrabundah shops, Iluka St**

We can't wait to see you there and celebrate the awesome work of our volunteers! 🙌



Green & Golden Bell Frog opportunity

Do you remember last year's fun theme:

THE FROG SAUNA?

No, we haven't gone bonkers at all—quite the opposite, we do have the latest news about these toadally awesome inventions.

BUT LET'S SET THE SCENE FIRST:

🎵 Vrrrrmmm, Vrrrrmmm... 🐸

Picture this: the unmistakable sound of a motorbike revving—except, plot twist! It's coming from a frog. Yep, a *green and golden bell frog* to be exact. Once, these little amphibians were the noisy neighbours of Canberra, but sadly, their signature "ribbiting engine" has been missing for decades. So, what happened?

Enter: chytrid fungus, the evil villain in this froggy tale. This sneaky pathogen has been wiping out frog populations worldwide, and it's still lurking in Canberra. Without help, these frogs can't make their big comeback.

But fear not! The heroes in this story are the brilliant folks at the **University of Canberra's Centre for Conservation Ecology and Genomics**, who've uncovered an unlikely cure. Ready for it? **Salty pools and frog saunas.** Yep, frogs *love* these—turns out, they help clear up the infection, and even better, chytrid fungus *hates* these spots!



Last year, the first four frog saunas (yes, that's a thing now) were a smashing success. Local frogs are *loving* their new retreats, making this quirky idea a real game-changer in the mission to bring back our beloved green and golden bell frogs.

And here's where you come in! 🏗️ In preparation for the big frog release in Spring 2025, **11 more frog retreats** are in the works, under the straight leadership of Jarrod Sopniewski from UC. We've got some digging, spray-painting, stacking, raking, and plant-adding to do—and it's going to be a blast! 🌈

While FrogTober may still be a few months away, if you're itching to lend a hand and help create these amphibian spas, now's the time! Get in touch, and I'll add you to the **Green and Golden Opportunity WhatsApp group**, where we organize fun working bees and get-togethers for the green and goldens.

I can't wait to hear that **vrrrrmmm, vrrrrmmm** croak again in Canberra soon! 🚀

Latest FrogWatch publications

Over the years, **FrogWatch** has teamed up with some incredible scientists, and the results? Well, they're absolutely *frogsome*! 🐸 ✨ There's something so satisfying about seeing collaboration bear fruit—and we've got some exciting news to share!

If you missed it, here's a fun fact: The article "[City dwellers: habitat connectivity and demographic responses of a semi-aquatic turtle in Australia](#)" was published in mid-2024! 🌈 This article highlights the findings from several years of **turtle monitoring**, which was a fun team effort between Bruno from **Turtlewatch**, ACT Government data analysts, and, of course, FrogWatch. 🐢



But wait, there's more! Just recently, another huge collaboration project, led by the ACT Government and involving 58 collaborators, has officially been marked as "in print"! 📖 You can even get a sneak peek of it [\[here\]](#)!

It's amazing to see how working together with other researchers and organizations leads to such impactful discoveries. Science truly is a team sport!

Speaking of all things froggy and fantastic, did you catch the **Ginninderry Research Showcase** in late 2024? If not, don't worry! All the amazing presentations and posters from that event are now neatly gathered under one roof at the [Ginninderry Research Hub](#). 🌈

Take a moment to scroll through and discover the incredible work that the **Team Ginninderra Catchment Group** has been contributing over the years. From turtles 🐢 (thanks, Bruno!), to wombats 🦘 (cheers, Yolandi!), and of course, the froggies 🐸 (shoutout to *The Crazy Frog Lady* 🐸)—there's so much to explore and celebrate!



Other interesting froggy reads

🦎 Golf Courses: More Than Just Fairways and Birdies! 🦎 shared by Rosemary Blemings

Did you know golf courses can actually be *wildlife havens*? It's true! According to an [article in The Conversation](#), golf courses are stepping up as unexpected beacons of biodiversity, with Australia leading the charge as one of the world's golfing capitals—boasting over **1,800 golf courses!** 🦎 🏌️

Now, we all know golf courses have a reputation for excessive chemicals, fertilizers, and that *perfectly manicured* grass, but there's a twist to the story. More and more golf courses are embracing natural habitats and wildlife conservation. Some, like the **Grange Golf Club** in South Australia, even have a *biodiversity manager!* 🦎 🌱

The article is full of food for thought—if anyone's keen to dive into a project exploring golf courses as wildlife sanctuaries, count me in! Let me know if you're interested!

🦎 A Froggy Comeback Story! 🌱

As we are preparing the **green and golden opportunity** of reintroducing a frog species to the ACT, [here's another incredible comeback story to inspire us all!](#) The **Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog** has made a remarkable return to **Yosemite National Park**, thanks to years of dedicated conservation work. 🌱

A huge shoutout to Lyn from **SeeChange** for sharing this inspiring article with us! It's a true testament to what can be achieved when we put in the time, effort, and care to restore a species to its rightful home.

🦎 Had Enough of Reading? Time for a Froggy Escape! 🦎

If you're ready for a change of pace, **hop onto this link [here]**, shared by Wendy! Take a deep dive into the heart of the Indian forest, where wildlife photographer **Biju Bp** has captured *mind-blowing macro photos* of **45 stunning frogs**. 📷 🌱 Trust me, these shots are *frogtastically* beautiful.

Here's a little teaser to whet your appetite!



🦋 Get Ready for a Butterfly Adventure! 🌸

Autumn brings an explosion of colour with butterflies fluttering by or resting on logs and rocks. These beauties aren't just pretty—they're essential pollinators for many of our local flowers! 🌸 Join our local expert, **Dr. Suzi Bond**, for a delightful stroll up **Black Mountain** to learn about butterflies and the plants they love.

The walk will be an easy ramble, with a few steeper sections and some steps to keep things interesting. **Bonus:** You can pick up a copy of the "**Field Guide to the Butterflies of the Australian Capital Territory**" by **Suzi Bond, Steve Holliday & John Stein**, available for cash sale. 📖

📅 **When:** Sunday, 9th March

- **Morning Session:** 10:30am to 12:00pm
- **Afternoon Session:** 1:30pm to 3:00pm

📍 **Where:** Lookout Terrace, just uphill from the Telstra Tower on Black Mountain (look for banners).

What to bring:

- Binoculars (if you have them!)
- Snacks & water
- Sturdy walking gear, a hat and stout shoes

Booking is essential: [Book your spot here!](#)

🦎 That's a Froggy Wrap for Today! 🐾

It's time for me to hop off, but I can't wait to catch up with you at one of the upcoming events. See you soon for more froggy fun and nature adventures! 🌱



Anke Maria

The ACT and Region Frogwatch Program is coordinated by the Ginninderra Catchment Group with the financial assistance of the ACT Government. Parts of the program are also supported by the **ACT Herpetological Association (ACTHA)** and **Icon Water**.